GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6330
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
PM`S VISIT TO SINGAPORE AND CAMBODIA
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;CHANDRESH PATEL KORDIA;GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA;RAMPAL SINGH;RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK;SUKDEO PASWAN;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI;YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the bilateral and multilateral issues discussed by the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Singapore and Cambodia;

(b) the agreements signed on the occasion including the terms of agreements;

(c) the details of Indian delegation which accompanied him;

(d) the dignitaries in each country with whom the PM and the Indian delegation held talks and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the trade volume from both countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) During Prime Minister`s visit to Singapore from 7-9 April, 2002, bilateral economic cooperation was discussed, with focus on biotechnology in addition to cooperation in the field of tourism. On the multilateral side, the upcoming India-ASEAN Summit and International Terrorism were issues discussed.

During the Prime Minister`s visit to Cambodia (9-11 April, 2002), bilateral cooperation in the field of science and technology, human resource development, information technology, agriculture, culture, trade and tourism were discussed. On the multilateral side, India-ASEAN Summit, India`s support for `Initiative for ASEAN Integration`, international terrorism, cooperation to tackle problems o poverty and to manage globalization to best address the concerns of developing countries, were discussed.

(b) The following Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed with Singapore:

(i) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Telecommunications. The MOU envisages improving bilateral cooperation in the field of telecommunications, including exchange of scientific and technical information, promotion of investments in the telecommunications sector, joint ventures, etc.

ii) MOU on the Loan of Artifacts to the Asian Civilizations Museum of Singapore. The MOU relates to loaning of 11 artifacts by the National Museum to the Asian Civilizations Museum of Singapore.

The following Agreements were signed with Cambodia:

(i) Agreement for Conservation/Restoration of a Ta Prom Temple Siam Reap, Cambodia. In terms of above Agreement, Government of India would provide expertise and assistance to the Royal Government of Cambodia for conservation of Ta Prom Temple.

(ii) Agreement relating to Air Services. The above is a framework Agreement for promoting cooperation in the field of civil aviation and establishing air services between India and Cambodia.

(iii) The Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport holders. The above Agreement permits entry and stay of holders of Diplomatic and Official Passport holders of the two countries to enter and stay for 60-days in each other`s territory without necessity of obtaining a visa.

(c) Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister of Disinvestment, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister and National Security Adviser, Secretary (Economic Relations) in Ministry of External Affairs and other senior officials.

(d) In Singapore, Prime Minister had meetings with the President, Prime Minister and Senior Minister of Singapore. In Cambodia Prime Minister had an audience with His Majesty the King of Cambodia, and met the President of the Senate, President of the

National Assembly and Prime Minister of Cambodia.Discussions on all issues of mutual interest has led to closer cooperation between India and the two countries.

(e) Enhancement of trade relations with South-East Asia including Singapore and Cambodia is an ongoing process. Steps taken in this direction include frequent interactions both at Government as well as industry and trade level; exchange of business delegations; and participation in exhibitions and fairs.